

LOWELL DAMON HOUSE
WALWATOSA, WISCONSIN
Milwaukee Co.

H.A.B.S. No WIS 121
HABS
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• PHOTOGRAPHS •

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

DISTRICT No 28

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey
Alexander C. Guth • District Officer
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee Wis.

LOWELL DAMON HOUSE
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin

Owner or Custodian (For Sale)

Date of Erection. Rear - 1844. Front - 1846.

Architect. Not known

Builder. Probably Oliver Damon, Jr.

Present Condition. Dilapidated

Number of Stories. Two

Materials of Construction. Oak timber and black walnut.

Other Existing Records. None known

Additional Data. (See following pages.)

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LOWELL DAMON HOUSE
Wauwatosa, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin.

The Lowell Damon House is located at ^{Rogers Street} and Wauwatosa Avenue in the City of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. One portion of the house, the rear, was erected in 1844. The front portion followed in 1846. Thus the house is one of the oldest landmarks in the city of Wauwatosa. The original owner was Oliver Damon, Jr., who emigrated to the Northwest from the State of New Hampshire. He was a carpenter and wheelwright and it is surmised that he was also the builder of the house.

When Damon settled in this sparsely populated country, wooded land abounded on all sides. Here in the nearby forests were cut the logs which went into the house later as finished lumber. Some of the young saplings were simply squared on one side and used as rafters and joists. Others were hewn and squared with an adze, and the tool marks are still to be seen on many a piece of timber in the old house. Much of this timbering is of oak and black walnut.

The house has a number of interesting and unusual features ~~in it~~ which ^{single} it out from its more modern neighbors. These attest to the early training and environment of the builder, who learned his craft amidst the best of the colonial work in the East.

The building shows much originality of conception, refinement of detail and excellence of moulding. And because it is a derelict of the past, a tumble-down structure in need of paint, because the brass knocker that once graced the front door is but a memory and its sill is worn by the tread of countless feet, it is neglected by the passer-by. The average citizen of Wauwatosa is not alive to the fact that here is an example of the purest type of architecture extant.

Today (1935) the house is hardly habitable. It has outlived its usefulness as a human habitation. It is almost ready for the hand of the wrecker.

Alexander C. Guth
District Officer

(Revised by HABS Headquarters
September 9, 1935)

Revised 1936, H.C.F.